



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

JAN 26 2007

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

Re: Namenda -- 5,061,703
Namenda -- 5,614,560
Docket No. 2006E-0332
Docket No. 2006E-0333

The Honorable Jon Dudas
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
Box Patent Extension
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Director Dudas:

This is in regard to the applications for patent term extension for U.S. Patent Nos. 5,061,703 and 5,614,560 filed by Merz Pharma GmbH & Co. KGaA under 35 U.S.C. § 156. The human drug product claimed by the patents is Namenda (memantine hydrochloride), which was assigned NDA No. 21-487.

A review of the Food and Drug Administration's official records indicates that this product was subject to a regulatory review period before its commercial marketing or use, as required under 35 U.S.C. § 156(a)(4). Our records also indicate that it represents the first permitted commercial marketing or use of the product, as defined under 35 U.S.C. § 156(f)(1), and interpreted by the courts in *Glaxo Operations UK Ltd. v. Quigg*, 706 F. Supp. 1224 (E.D. Va. 1989), *aff'd*, 894 F. 2d 392 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

The NDA was approved on October 16, 2003, which makes the submission of the patent term extension applications on December 9, 2003, timely within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 156(d)(1).

Should you conclude that the subject patents are eligible for patent term extension, please advise us accordingly. As required by 35 U.S.C. § 156(d)(2)(A) we will then determine the applicable regulatory review period, publish the determination in the *Federal Register*, and notify you of our determination.

Please let me know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Jane A. Axelrad
Associate Director for Policy
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

cc: Adda C. Gogoris, Esq.
Darby & Darby, P.C.
805 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10022